

Appl. No. 10/731,106
Amdt. dated October 14, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 15, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A diaphragm valve according to claim [3] 6, wherein when the pin is in the first position and the valve is in the fully open position the distance between the surface of the stop of the handle and the abutment surface of the bonnet is substantially equal to the stroke of the valve.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A diaphragm valve according to claim [3] 6, wherein when the pin is in the second position and the valve is in the fully opened position the surface of the stop of the handle contacts the abutment surface of the bonnet.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A diaphragm valve, moveable between a fully open position and a fully closed position, the valve comprising:

(a) a bonnet having an abutment surface;

(b) a stem moveable relative to the bonnet, the stem having at least one aperture;

(c) a handle being freely rotatable on the stem and freely axially slidable on the stem, the handle having a stop with a surface for contacting the abutment surface of the bonnet; and

(d) a pin extending through the handle and into the at least one aperture in the stem for fixing the position of the handle relative to the stem.

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(e) wherein the at least one aperture comprises a slot that extends radially into the stem and axially along the stem and has a circumferential width adapted to receive the pin, the slot having a first end and a second end and the pin being moveable between a first position adjacent the first end and a second position adjacent the second end, and wherein A diaphragm valve according to claim 3, wherein when the pin is in the first position and the valve is in the fully closed position the surface of the stop of the handle contacts the abutment surface of the bonnet.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A diaphragm valve according to claim [4] 6, wherein the bonnet defines an opening of a size and configuration to receive therethrough the stem.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A diaphragm valve according to claim [4] 6, wherein the bonnet has a first thread and the stem has a second thread that cooperates with the first thread to allow the stem to be axially moveable relative to the bonnet.

Claims 9-13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (New) A diaphragm valve comprising:

- (a) a bonnet having an abutment surface;
- (b) a stem axially moveable relative to the bonnet and coupled to a flexible diaphragm for moving the diaphragm between fully open and fully closed positions to control flow through the valve; and
- (c) a handle coupled to the stem for effecting movement thereof, the handle having a stop surface for engaging the abutment surface, and the handle being releasably securable to the stem in any one of a first and at least a

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second attachment position along the axial length of the stem at respective distances from the diaphragm; and

(d) at least one of the first and at least second attachment positions being positioned to block movement of the stem by engagement of the stop surface with the abutment surface when the diaphragm is in a desired position.

Claim 15. (New) The valve of claim 14, wherein when the handle is secured to the stem in the first attachment position and the diaphragm is in the fully closed position, the stop surface contacts the abutment surface.

Claim 16. (New) The valve of claim 15, wherein when the handle is secured to the stem in the second attachment position and the diaphragm is in the fully open position, the stop surface contacts the abutment surface.

Claim 17. (New) The valve of claim 15, wherein the handle is releasably securable to the stem in a third attachment position located intermediate the first and second attachment positions.

Claim 18. (New) The valve of claim 17, wherein when the handle is secured to the stem in the third attachment position and the diaphragm is in a partially open position, the stop surface contacts the abutment surface.

Claim 19. (New) The valve of claim 14 further comprising a pin fixed to the handle and releasably engaging at least one aperture provided in the stem.

Claim 20. (New) The valve of claim 19 wherein the at least one aperture comprises a slot extending along a portion of the length of the stem.

Claim 21. (New) The valve of claim 20 wherein the slot comprises first and second ends for defining the first and second attachment positions, respectively.

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Claim 22. (New) The valve according to claim 19, wherein the at least one aperture comprises first and second apertures sized to receive the pin and spaced apart axially along the stem, the pin being moveable between a first position in the first aperture and a second position in the second aperture.

Claim 23. (New) The valve according to claim 22, wherein when the pin is in the first position and the valve is in the fully opened position the distance between the stop surface and the abutment surface of the bonnet is substantially equal to the stroke of the valve.

Claim 24. (New) The valve according to claim 22, wherein when the pin is in the second position and the valve is in the fully opened position, the stop surface contacts the abutment surface of the bonnet.

Claim 25. (New) The valve according to claim 22, wherein when the pin is in the first position and the valve is in the fully closed position, the stop surface contacts the abutment surface of the bonnet.

Claim 26. (New) The valve according to claim 22, further comprising at least a third aperture sized to receive the pin and positioned axially between the first aperture and the second aperture.